

Examiner also requested that Applicant elect one of the three (3) species for prosecution in the above-captioned patent application.

<u>Species:</u>	<u>Associated Claims</u>
Species 1A	Claim 1
Species 1B	Claim 2
Species 1C	Claims 3 and 4

REMARKS

In response to the Election Requirement, Applicants elect **Group I**, with associated **claims 1-4, without traverse**, for prosecution in the above-captioned patent application. Moreover, within Group I, Applicants elect **Species 1A**, with associated **claim 1, without traverse**, for prosecution in the above-captioned patent application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with the Applicants' representatives will in any way expedite the examination of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this submission. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC

By: 

Timothy J. Churna
Registration No. 48,340

Arent Fox PLLC
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 857-8933
Facsimile No. (202) 857-6395

CMM/TJC:kif